The Agricultural College Is a Friend to the Farmer

Page of News Notes and Interesting Articles Written by College Experts.

VIEW OF OREGON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AT CORVALLIS, OR. ITS SOLE AIM IS TO AID AGRICULTURISTS.

Now Is Time for Sweet Pea Growers to Hustle

"IT is time now to consider the planting of sweet peas," says Professor A. L. Peck, landscape gardener of Oregon Agricultural College. "The sowing of this crop can be carried on either in the Fall of the year, or at this time in early Spring. The peas should be sown in good garden soil, providing this ground is not subject to heavy soaking of water from now on. It should be planted in such situation that no trouble from over-shading can occur. A row running north and south, right out in full sunlight, is to be preferred. It is true that sweet peas often do well even planted along the north side of a house, but speaking of average conditions, the open is to be preferred.

"The soil should be carefully prepared, spading to a depth of at least a foot, and turning in, in the lower six inches of this soil, a liberal amount of well-decomposed barnyard manure. It is best to prepare the soil in this manner during the Fall, and, if possible, to plant the seed at that time. Should planting not prove feasible, and in case it is delayed until Spring, the top six inches of the soil should be stirred over again with a spade before planting.

"As soon as the soil is in good working condition, the sweet peas can be set out, or sown. For sowing the seed, dig a small trench or furrow, about 4 or 5 inches deep, smooth the surface of the soil in the bottom of this trench and sow the seed evenly, using about one ounce of seed to 15 or 18 feet of the row. Then cover with two inches of soil. When the seedlings are four or five inches high, one can thin out so that the plants will remain about six inches apart in the row."

At this time one should have catalogues from the various seedsmen at hand, and he will be able to use these publications to aid him in selecting his varieties of sweet peas. Many people prefer to plant sweet peas in mixtures. In this case some of the most satisfactory varieties can be obtained, and at that somewhat more cheaply than could the named varieties in separate packets.

There are several places in town where sweet pea seed can be purchased, and the prices run from 5 cents a packet, for a liberal amount of seed, up to much higher prices for the newer varieties, which are offered for sale for the plantings of the sweet pea fancier.

Stump Pulling Demonstrated.

(Special.)

A land clearing demonstration was added to the numerous attractive events scheduled for farmers' week at the Oregon Agricultural College, February 1 to 6. The demonstration included stump burning, stump pulling and stump blasting. Each process was handled by experts who showed six different processes. The demonstration took place on a farm a short distance from Corvallis at 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon, February 6. Carryalls left the college campus at 1:30 so that all who were interested in the demonstrations could be taken to the ground without charge. The demonstrations were under the immediate charge of Professor H. D. Scudder, of the agronomy department.

A page of interesting items from the Oregon Agricultural College at Corvallis will alternate in the farm weekly with a page of news notes from the Washington State College at Pullman. This will afford an interchange of views from the two big agricultural colleges of the Northwest that should prove of benefit to the reader, for the institutions deal with similar problems.

Umatilla Sub-Station Issues Report of Work

"SOIL and climatic conditions prevailing on the Umatilla reclamation project were considered by the reclamation service to be better adapted to the production of fruit than to other crops. As a result of this early decision, the land was divided into small units with a view to the development of small intensively farmed fruit and garden tracts." The foregoing is a quotation from the report of the Umatilla branch experiment station, made by Superintendent Ralph W. Allen and issued by the Oregon Agricultural College experiment station under the direction of Director A. B. Cordley. The report tells further how and for what purpose the branch station was established, how it is maintained and managed, how it views the leading features of its activities since its establishment. The report says further:

"The predominating soil type on the Umatilla project, upon which the station is located, is sand, ranging in texture from coarse to fine. Approximately half of this area is of coarse sand and the remainder ranges in character from medium to fine. The higher land that lies back from the Columbia River is mostly of finer texture. The soils are markedly deficient in organic matter and nitrogen. The physical character of this land renders the duty of irrigation water very low. From a soil standpoint, the correction of these two difficulties, which are among the principal factors influencing crop production, is of the utmost importance.

"Climatic conditions of this district are very congenial for crop growth. They are a rare combination of dry atmosphere and dry weather. The effect is comparatively long growing seasons and mild, open Winters."

Conditions on this tract are such as render necessary scientific investigation in eradication of alkali, securing stands of crops, crop rotations, and the economical use of water and increasing soil fertility.

Reports of experiments with truck crops, strawberries, cane fruits and tree fruits as carried on in field plats are given in the new bulletin, free copies of which may be had by all interested persons upon request addressed to the Oregon Agricultural College.

Students Give Book Fund.

With instructions to select a small library of books suitable to the farm home and covering as wide a range of practical subjects as possible, the Oregon Agricultural College short course students of 1915 have requested the college authorities to accept the special fund raised for this purpose. This action by the short course students was taken for the purpose of expressing their appreciation of the courtesies shown them by the college and of the valuable information and training which they secured during their short course work.

This action was in line with precedents established by other short course classes at the college.

While the books purchased with this special fund are designed primarily for the use of short course students, they are also accessible to the degree and the vocational students and to the college faculties. The list will be selected and purchased by Dean A. B. Cordley, of the school of agriculture, and Mrs. Ida Kidder, librarian.

The class of 1915 elected J. H. Glines, of Waldport, president, "because," said the members, "he has attended two short courses before and knows the 'ropes,'". Mrs. J. M. Waldrip, who owns and manages a farm on San Juan Island in Puget Sound, was elected secretary, and H. F. Hawkins, of Salem, was elected treasurer. Mr. Hawkins is now managing the dairy end of a 1600-acre ranch near Dallas. P. C. Burt, of Bend, was chosen to solicit the special funds for the library donation.

Report of John Jacob Astor Branch Station

IN 1913 an agricultural experiment station was established in Clatsop County for the purpose of investigating and demonstrating agricultural possibilities of reclaimed swamp land and logged off land. The biennial report of this station, known as the John Jacob Astor branch experiment station, has been issued by the Agricultural College Experiment Station under the direction of Director A. B. Cordley. In this report, issued as an experiment station bulletin, are summed up the principal facts of establishment and maintenance of the station and the result of its operation during the last two years.

The John Jacob Astor branch station is situated four miles from Astoria on Young's River. Of the 70 acres comprising the farm, 50 acres are tide land and 20 acres logged-off hill land. This represents the average types of land in Clatsop County and the methods and results secured in its management and use will prove of much interest to owners of similar types.

Methods of draining and clearing the tide lands of their dense growth of rushes, reeds and swamp grasses are summarized in the report. Some of these methods were quite different from those generally followed in clearing these lands and some very excellent results have been secured by them. In addition to this the bulletin describes the cropping systems that were employed successfully in connection with the clearing methods.

Care of Spring Lambs.

"The Spring of the year is the shepherd's harvest. After the long Winter of ceaseless toil and care the lambing time is the joy and the fruit of the shepherd's labors. To him it is the greatest pleasure to welcome each new-born babe, whether it be single, twin or triplet. But like the grain harvest, lambing time is not a time of ease. The successful shepherd is very skillful at this time and uses his best judgment in feeding and caring for the flock."

So says Professor O. M. Nelson, specialist at the Oregon Agricultural College in sheep production. He believes that a little grain should be given the ewes a month or so before lambing. Small amounts should be used in beginning the feed, which may consist of one and one-half parts of oats to one part bran fed with roots, silage, alfalfa or vetch and clover. The ewes should have the run of a good pasture and access to a shed.

As soon as the lambs come the ewes should be tagged and taught to own their lambs. By tagging, that is clipping the wool away from the udder, the lamb is given a good chance in his first claim to life. Many lambs have been killed by sucking locks of wool instead of the nipple intended for them. Neglect to see that the lamb takes all the milk produced by the mother may lead to caked and inflamed udders.

Importance of Marketing.

"The whole industry of vegetable production rests upon marketing, yet this phase of the subject has been given but scant attention while methods of production have engaged the serious consideration of Oregon growers for many years," says Professor A. G. Bouquet, head of vegetable gardening at the Agricultural College.

"Every plan and all the activities of growers are based upon their effects on the sale of his products. Since success in marketing each product by the route that brings the highest net returns to the grower depends upon having the kind and quality of product demanded by accessible markets, the successful market gardener will always take his market demands into consideration in planning his garden and selecting his crops. It is what he markets, not what he grows, that determines the success of the gardener."

Time Now to Set Hens to Get Winter Layers

THE latter part of March or first of April is the best time that Eastern Oregon poultry raisers can select for hatching next Winter's layers, according to Professor A. G. Lunn, of the Oregon Agricultural College poultry department. Eggs for these hatchings would, of course, be set from the first to the middle of March.

"A difficulty in producing pullets that will lay during the Winter months is the problem of preventing them from beginning to lay before cold weather," continued Mr. Lunn. "If they mature and begin laying earlier than this they will likely molt when they should be producing eggs. When cold weather catches the pullets in molt they need all their powers to maintain bodily vigor and usually will stop laying until the warm days of Spring come.

"If pullets molt in Winter it is probably because they are hatched too early in the season. They reach maturity while it is still warm, begin laying and then go into the molt. This is where one of the greatest troubles lies.

"It is a mistake also to think that pullets hatched in Winter will make the best Winter layers.

"A Leghorn hen requires on the average seven months to mature to the point where it will begin to lay. Heavy breeds of chickens require one or two months additional. Leghorn chickens hatched soon after the middle of March, if they make normal development, should begin to lay in October when their chances of molting will be reduced to the minimum.

"Chicks that are hatched in late Spring or early Summer are not apt to thrive well on account of the scarcity of proper forage and because of other influences that tend to keep them from growing into vigorous and healthy fowls and good layers."

Rural Life Supports Urban.

"Out of the agricultural colleges must come the solution of the great and serious problem of building a rural life to stand the strain of caring for the congested cities of the future," said Walter M. Pierce, of the Oregon Agricultural College Board of Regents.

"More than that, it will be the peculiar mission of the agricultural colleges to make farm life so profitable and attractive that rural settlement will keep pace with city growth far more nearly than it has in the past. Why, when I was a boy on a farm near Chicago, that city numbered but 300,000 people. Its population has since swelled to about 3,000,000, while the rural community in which I lived has scarcely increased at all.

"Here in our own Oregon the population of Portland is fast mounting toward the million mark, which it will reach in due time. But what about the Willamette Valley? We confidently look to our own Agricultural College to solve the problem of building a rural life here that will support the crowded city."

Hog Breed Small Factor.

In starting hog raising growers need not be concerned very seriously about the breed of hogs they select, according to the O. A. C. animal husbandry department. Each of the three principal breeds in Oregon—Poland China, Berkshire and Duroc Jersey, has its points of superiority and inferiority, and there is said to be about as much difference in individuals as between breeds. Some run more to the fat hog and lard type and others more to the bacon type, while some are rather earlier maturing than others. But the main consideration in selecting the breed is to choose the one that suits the breeder's ideas and purposes best, and then stick to it and build it up by careful selection and proper management.